

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01 AGR-20 AID-20 SS-20 L-03 /143 W

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R 071117Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3054

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH INFLUENTIAL TURK POLITICIAN
ON OPIUM ISSUE

REF: ANKARA 1530

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONVERSATION WITH INFLUENTIAL RPP
POLITICIAN CLOSE TO PRIMIN ECEVIT TENDS TO CONFIRM OUR ESTIMATES
OF TURKISH POSITION ON OPIUMISSUE AS OUTLINED REFTEL. WHILE
INSISTING THAT TURKEY SHOULD RESUME CAREFULLY CONTROLLED POPPY
CULTIVATION AS A DOMESTIC POLITICAL NZOESSITY, TURK POLITICIAN
FREELY ACKNOWLEDGED HIS GOVT'S CONCERN ABOUT DISAGREEMENT
WITH USG ON SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

POL AND MSA COUNSELORS ON MARCH 5 HAD CHARACTERISTICALLY
FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIES ON OPIUM ISSUED WITH HALUK ULMAN, RPP
POLITICIAN WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE CLOSE ADVISOR TO PRIMIN ECEVIT.
ULMAN ACTUALLY BROKE NO NEW GROUND IN THIS TALK BUT
CERTAIN FOLLOWING REVELATIONS OF HIS MAY BE HELPFUL TO
DEPARTMENT IN ITS PREPARATION OF ANALYTIC STUDY
AND OPTIONS (STATE 42336 - TOSEC 311):

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1. ULMAN INDICATED THAT TOP LEVELS OF RPP, AT LEAST, WERE BEING KEPT CURRENTLY INFORMED OF US-TURKISH EX-CHANGES ON OPIUM ISSUE. HE INDICATED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT HE HAD READ RECORD OF MEETING BETWEEN PRIMIN AND AMB. AT ONE POINT IN OUR TALK WITH HIM, ULMAN USED TERM QUOTE DIRTY BUSINESS UNQTE, THEN PERHAPS RECALLING AMB MACOMBER'S USE OF IT, EXPLAINED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED IN THE US SENSE BUT, AS THE GRUBBY, HANDS AND KNEES BUSINESS OF MAKING A LIVING FROM THE SOIL.

2. ULMAN SEVERAL TIMES IN THE CONVERSATION FREELY ACKNOWLEDGED TURKISH CONCERN ABOUT THE USG REACTION TO A RESUMPTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION, IMPLYING IN THE PROCESS THAT THE TURKS REMAINED BASICALLY UNDECIDED AS TO THE PRECISE STEPS THEY WOULD TAKE.

3. AN IDEAL SOLUTION FROM TURK VIEWPOINT, HOWEVER, WOULD BE A COMBINATION OF AN EXPANDED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE POPPY PROVINCES ALONG WITH A CAREFULLY CONTROLLED RESUMPTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION.

4. AGAIN, IN TURKISH THINKING, ANY RENEWED POPPY CULTIVATION WOULD AIM AT SELLING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF OPIUM TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, NOT SIMPLY TO TURKEY'S PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY.

5. PRICES FOR THE PRODUCTS OF THE OPIUM POPPY FARMERS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN HERETOFORE HAD BEEN THE CASE, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE LESS INCLINATION ON THE PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL POPPY FARMER TO MAKE HIS PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TO SMUGGLERS.

6. HE EXHIBITED CONFIDENCE THAT THE US AND TURKEY COULD WORK OUT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING. MACOMBER

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